

equilibrium on which our Constitution is founded and which I believe it will exhibit to the world in a degree of perfection, unexampled but in the planetary system itself. The enlightened statesman, therefore, will endeavor to preserve the weight and influence of every part, as too' much given to any member of it would destroy the general equilibrium. (To. Peregrine Fitzhugh, 1798. F. VII., 210.)

STATE'S RIGHTS.—It is of immense consequence that the States

retain as complete authority as possible over their own citizens.

The withdrawing themselves under a foreign jurisdiction is

so subversive of order and so pregnant of abuse that it may

not be amiss to consider how far a law of praemunire should

be revived and modified against citizens who attempt to carry

their causes before any other than the State courts in cases where

those other courts have no right to their cognizance. A

plea to the jurisdiction of the courts of their State, or a reclamation

of a foreign jurisdiction, if adjudged valid, would be safe;

but if adjudged invalid would be followed by the punishment of

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praemunire for the attempt. (To James Monroe, 1797. F.

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VII., 1730

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STATE'S RIGHTS.—We are willing to sacrifice to the Union

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and the Constitution everything but the rights of self-govern-

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ment in those important points which we have never yielded,

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and in which alone we see liberty, safety and happiness; we are not at all disposed to make every measure of error or of-wrong, a cause of scission; we are willing to look on with indulgence and wait with patience till those passions and delusions shall have passed over, which the Federal Government have artfully excited to cover its own abuses and conceal its designs, fully confident that the good sense of the American people and their attachment to those very rights, which we are now vindicating, will, before it shall be too late, rally with us around the true principles of our Federal compact. (To W. C. Nicholas, 1799. F. VII, 390.)

STATE'S RIGHTS.—Our country is too large to have all its affairs directed by a single government. Public service at such a distance, and from under the eye of their constituents, must,